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For the Herald.

A EULOGY ON THE LEATH OF
JOHN Q. ADAMS.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY OF CASTLETON SEMINARY

BY WILLIAM CHAUNCEY LANGDON

President and Vice-President of the Society.

Adams has occurred which summons

us to mourn; one has been taken

from us who has held the highest offices

that merit could deserve, or a grateful peo-

ple could bestow. He who has served his

country for more than half a century; who

through full of days and honors, yet lingered

at the post of duty, has died at that post;

he has gathered to the community of Wash-

ington and La Fayette, Adams, Jefferson,

and Jackson to hover with guardian wing

over the land of his nativity, and the land

of his heart.

It is fitting that all should pay a

tribute to the memory of departed worth;

but it is, that youth should meditate upon

the character of the ruler of days long

ended in the dim vista of the past, and from

him learn more wisely to live and more nobly die.

It will not be thought out of place or unmeaning to give a brief sketch of a life that affords such a striking example of disinterested patriotism.

John Quincy Adams was born on the

11th day of July, 1767, in the town of

Quincy, then a part of the town of Braintree, Mass.

He was brought up, and the struggles for liberty, which could but make a most terrible impression on his ardent and patriotic mind. His father nothing need be said;—his mother had a soul and a heart that made her a woman meet to be the wife of the mother of two such patriots—

Now on every side of him endeavored to rouse him in the cause of liberty; and taught by his father and by Washington the youth of the illustrious subject of our sketch was passed away. When only in his 12th year, he accompanied his father to the Court of Versailles, who was sent in connection with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, as commissioners. Towards the close of the next year he returned; and almost immediately after, the elder Adams was again sent to Europe, and John Quincy was put to school at Paris where he remained until 1780, his father removing to Holland. Here he pursued his studies in Amsterdam and afterwards in the University of Leyden. The next year, when only fourteen, he accompanied Francis Dana Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia, as private Secretary; whence he returned in October, 1782, by way of Sweden, Denmark, &c., to Holland. He continued a seven years student with his father, in France, England and Holland, from that time until the year 1789. He then returned to his native country, and in 1797, graduated with highest honors at Harvard University. He studied law under Theophilus Parsons, since Chief Justice of Massachusetts, and was admitted to the bar of Boston in 1791.

In 1794 he was appointed resident Minister to the United Netherlands, and had held this situation but a few months, when he purposed to retire from public life. From this resolution, however, he was fortunately dissuaded by Gen. Washington. In 1796 he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Lisbon; the next year he was sent with the same powers to Prussia. In 1798 he was appointed a Commissioner to conclude a treaty with Sweden, and in Sept., 1801, he was returned once more to his native country. The next year he was chosen Senator from Boston to the Massachusetts Legislature; and soon a letter was sent, at the age of thirty-five, to the Senate of the United States. The duties of the office he discharged until 1808, when, differing from his constituents, as well as his colleagues upon some important political question, he resigned. He was appointed the next year by President Madison Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia; and while here in 1811, he received the appointment of Associate Justice in the Supreme Court of the United States, which however he declined.

In 1813 he was employed with Messrs. Gallatin and Bayard to negotiate a treaty of peace with Great Britain. Nothing however, was done at this time. In January, 1814, he was placed at the head of five Commissioners, consisting of himself, Messrs. Gallatin, Clay, Bayard, and Russell, who concluded the celebrated treaty of Ghent. He was soon afterwards associated with the first named statesman to negotiate acts of Commerce with the same nation; and this was sent Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James.

On the 5th of March, 1817, Mr. Monroe the new President placed him at the head of the State Department, in which office he remained until the close of that administration, when he was called by the vote of the people to the highest honors which it is lawful to confer. His course in discharging the duties of the Executive was throughout characterized by the same principles that had marked his previous life. Many of his services were not then appreciated; but his services were not then appreciated; and

condemned; but even his most violent opposers while they denounced the President, could but admire and esteem the Christian and the Man; and none could deny that his every action was marked with a sense of duty, a desire to follow the dictates of justice and right and the true, unswerving principles of moral rectitude and patriotism.

At the end of his term of office, in 1825, he retired to his mansion in Quincy, Mass., and for a short time repose from public life in the enjoyment of private leisure. Some said it would have been for the honor of the honored statesman, had he never again thrown himself into the arena of political life. But far from that, during his career in the House of Representatives, he has shown forth many noble and excellent traits that go far to make up the character of the "Old Man Eloquent," as it stands before the gaze of an admiring nation. He did his country required his services; and true to his principles of patriotism, in December 1831, he returned to the service of his country, and death has found him still devoted to that country's service.

Such is an imperfect sketch of the life of John Quincy Adams. I will not attempt to comment upon it. The number of stations of honor and responsibility he has successfully held, are in themselves a brilliant eulogy. But he has passed away—no more shall listening multitudes in breathless silence hang upon his words. No more shall statesmen weep while hearkening to his matchless eloquence. The beloved fellow citizen, the statesman, the sage, the patriot, the venerable Christian has fallen? No! At this post of duty he but rested from his toils, and gently passed away.

The sun had risen of the morning of the 21st, and ushered in a new week. The venerable statesman holds his noonday repose and the council of the nation greet him with a smiling look of heart-felt respect and love. The votes are taken on some passing bill. Hark! In a clear and distinct voice the patriot answers to his name. He attempts to rise; but what a pang is this! He sinks, he swoons he dies! Gracious Heaven, and do we see this day? With anxious care, they bear him for the hall of State. Again he opens his eyes—Once glances up at the scenes where he had toiled for his country many years. One look—an retrospective thought. "This is the last of earth. I am content." Oh precious words, the dying murmurings of the good old man! The ministers of life are making unavailing attempts to call him back once more. The portion of his aged heart and others dear to him are by, but he needs them not. Has death already sealed the fountain of his life? How cold, how pale! Yes he is gone. But no! he breathes again, and energetic muscles renew their vigor. Can he live until the night shall pass her mighty hand? Oh grant it, heaven!—One look—more toilsome now to meet its kindred spirit. His lips are—upon the verge of death; as if he felt reluctant to leave his country and her service, even to be winged to the immortal realms above. It is not the will of all wise Providence that he should depart so speedily. He sees another birth day of his country's father pass away, and then he yields his peaceful spirit to his God. Still ye whistling winds mantle the heavens in your gloomy fields, violets, and let the world be still for he is dead! The hours move silently unobserved; and the sun rises again to dispel the gloom of death. But I ask not your reward as a cause for my success, one trace of your glassy hair shall be my reward!

You shall have her—her boy! replied the lady, and her look of pain changed into a sweet smile as she asked. His name is Frank-Benjamin-Sorenson, replied the young man, and the blotted beneath his earnest gaze.

He was also but well-formed; I looked very young, but in his dark blue eyes was compressed up an observer could almost whose mien was not made by years—

The sun was setting behind a bank of slowly rising clouds, when darkness and storm. The moment that the services were accepted, young Ben and his crew waited for the signal to start. "I want six men to man the deck boat which hangs over the stern of the ship," said he. A young officer, an Englishman who had been lately appointed, stepped forward and modestly said:

I was only waiting for my senior to speak, Senora. Had my one of them val-

ued, I should have begun to accompany him. As it is, I pledge myself to bring you yonder flag before the sun rises again! But I ask not your reward as a cause for my success, one trace of your glassy hair shall be my reward!

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